

Tom, Coffee House March: 3: 1739: 40
No: 85 *A.* *11630. C. 13* *M/s* *20* *Po*

SEASONABLE REBUKE

TO THE

PLAYHOUSE RIOTERS,

Contained in two New

PROLOGUES

Proper, at this

TURBULENT JUNCTURE,

To be exhibited in the

BRITISH THEATRE.

To which is prefixed,

A PETITIONARY DEDICATION to the FAIR MEMBERS
of the SHAKESPEAR-CLUB;

*Kindly, Great Mars and Neptune, Britain free
From Rioters of whatso'er Degree,
Let 'em Patricians or Plebeians be;
Some, Soldiers make, some Sailors, some Marines;
To rid us of 'em, the effectual Means:
So we our Quiet shall at Home enjoy,
They usefully Abroad themselves employ.*

L O N D O N :

Printed for C. CORBETT, over-against St. Dunstan's Church,
in Fleet-Street. 1740. [Price Six-Pence.]

N. B. *The Manuscript of this Piece was finished very few Days after the remarkable Tumult happened in Drury-Lane Playhouse, which occasioned the writing it; and, therefore, had it not been for certain unforeseen Accidents, would, long before this Time, have been published; but as scarce a Night has since pass'd without some Disturbance in the Theatres, it is presum'd the Production will not appear wholly unseasonable.*



being
of the
them



TO THE
FAIR MEMBERS
OF THE
SHAKESPEAR-CLUB,

LADIES,

THE very Title of your elegant Society, speaks you Lovers of dramattick Representations ; therefore, as the following Poems are exhibited with a View to remove the Dangers, which, at present, attend your being Spectators of them, I need not entreat your Patronage of the Productions ; your own Interest must prompt you to take them under your powerful Protection.

But,

DEDICATION.

But, as Gratitude is in the Number of those amiable Virtues ascrib'd to your captivating Sex, you will naturally consider, that to an Author, who voluntarily endeavour'd to procure your future Ease and Safety in the Theatre, some Mark of Favour, besides mere Approbation of that Attempt, is unquestionably due.

Encourag'd by this pleasing Thought, I take the Freedom to ask, as my Reward, an Office I am immoderately ambitious of ; I mean that of your Ladyship's Secretary. It is, I confess, a Post of Dignity and Importance ; but, 'till some other Person shall offer a more reasonable Pretention to it, I shall depend on your Generosity for the Permission of subscribing myself,

11. 7. 49

L A D I E S,

Your most devoted

And obedient

Humble Servant,

The happy **SECRETARY to the
SHAKESPEAR-CLUB.**



A P O L O G Y

For the PUBLICATION of the following

PRODUCTIONS.

When a Vice of any kind is once become noxious to the Publick, it is the Part of every Individual to contribute his best Efforts to the speedy Suppression of it; so a laudable Intent to discharge that Duty, was the Occasion of the following poetical Attempts; as by the Sequel of this Apology, will more fully appear.

Performances of the Stage, ever since the first Invention of the *Drama*, have, by Men eminent for refin'd Understanding, been

P R E F A C E.

been accounted, of all Entertainments, the most elegant and instructive.

It is, therefore, to be lamented, that the rough Spirit which us'd *properly* to exert itself in the *Bear-Garden*, is now become as *improperly* predominant in the Theatre. And, to the Shame of modern Nobility be it spoken, we plainly find Men distinguish'd by Birth and Education, more notoriously addicted to this tumultuous Vice, than the Vulgar and Illiterate; for while the *Plebeian*, in the Gallery, vents his *unmeaning* Rage in *empty* Noise and Uproar, giving only a transient Uneasiness to the Ear; the *Patrician* in the Box (as by a strong Instance has been lately proved) exerts his *riotous* Talents in the most extravagant Acts of offensive Outrage, to the unspeakable Terror of that Part of the Audience, whose Sex is entitled to the highest Respect and Deference; and while the Fair are *ungallantly* put to Flight, and the Assembly thereby depriv'd of its chiefest Ornaments; Gentlemen of peaceable Dispositions, met with Design to be entertain'd by instructive Scenes, find their Expectation frustrated by a Herd of *Rioters*, furiously contentious for the Savage Character, of being eminently Mischievous and Offensive.

By way of using his best Endeavours to prevent the farther Progress of an Evil so mortifying to those, *in particular*, who have a Relish for dramatick Performances, and so disgraceful to the *British Nation in general*, our Author thought proper to employ his Muse in the following Compositions; if they answer the End design'd, he will think himself compleatly happy; if they fail therein, he will, however, enjoy the Satisfaction of having made a commendable Attempt, and of gaining thereby the Approbation of those who conduct their Actions by the Dictates of Reason, and

P R E F A C E.

and make Decency and good Breeding the constant Rule of their Behaviour.

Such, indeed, who are conscious of their having acted a Part in the Tumults above describ'd, may, probably, at first View of these seasonable Essays, discover some Resentment against the Writer; yet, even they, 'tis hop'd, will, on mature Consideration, generously acknowledge, he has deserv'd their Friendship and Esteem, as having endeavour'd to correct in them a Disposition of Mind, which, uncorrected, must necessarily have render'd them the Aversion of all civil Society.

In a Word, as the Lines, for the Publication of which, we have been thus long apologizing, attack no *particular* Person, but level only at a shocking Vice, already become too *general*; so no reasonable Man can be offended at them. Free'd, therefore, by this satisfactory Reflection, from all Anxiety about their Reception, the Author chearfully submits them to the Judgment of the rational, unprejudic'd, and generous Reader.



P R E F A C E

and make Decency and good Breeding the constant Rule of their Behaviour.

Such, indeed, who are conscious of their having acted a Part in the Transgression, may, possibly, at first View of these Lessons, discover some Retirement against the Writer &c, even they, in good Will, on mature Consideration, generously acknowledge, he has desired their Friendship and Esteem, as having endeavoured to correct in them a Disposition of Mind, which, uncorrected, must necessarily have rendered them the Aversion of all civil Society.

In a Word, as the Lines, for the Publication of which, we have been thus long apologizing, attack no particular Person, but level only at a shocking Vice, already become so general; so no reasonable Man can be offended at them. Freed, therefore, by this satisfactory Reflection, from all Anxiety about their Reception, the Author cheerfully submits them to the Judgment of the rational, unprejudiced, and generous Reader.





F I R S T

PROLOGUE

Address'd to the

PATRICIAN PLAYHOUSE RIOTERS.



ATTEND, *illustrious* Wights, whose Favourite Joy

Appears, at *Home*, the *Peaceful* to annoy;

Who, by *Domestick* Bravery inspir'd,

Have o'er the Playhouse sovereign Rule acquir'd;

Safely declining *foreign* hostile Fray,

Where *Mars* will no Respect to Persons pay;

B

But

But treats as roughly the *embroider'd Peer*,
 As the *course-clad, plebeian Grenadier* ;
 Awhile, I say, *theatrick* Rage suspend,
 And to hear Reason, gracious condescend.

In what I offer, all Respect I'll shew
 To such a Race of *home-bred* Warriors due.

By having Playhouses in Ruins laid,
 What Honours, think you, you to those can add,
 Which from your glorious Ancestors you had ?

What martial Fame can Conquerors deserve,
 Who in *theatrick Sieges* only serve ;

Where no Fate dealing, no destructive Bomb
 To the Assailants threaten instant Doom ;
 Where Mines, *beneath*, they have no Cause to dread,

Nor Vollies, from fell Muskets, *over Head* ?
 Where mischiev'ous Exploits they may perform,
 Stages demolish, Green Rooms take by Storm,

Their

(II)

Their *Weapons* brandish, *Actresses* affright;
And *buskin'd* harmless Generals, put to Flight?
Where rueful barbarous Havock may be made
Of Instruments design'd for Serenade,
That us'd harmonious Rapture to dilate,
Of consequence deserving better Fate?

Where Rakes, in fine, may mangle costly Scenes,
And none dare ask, what all this Outrage means?

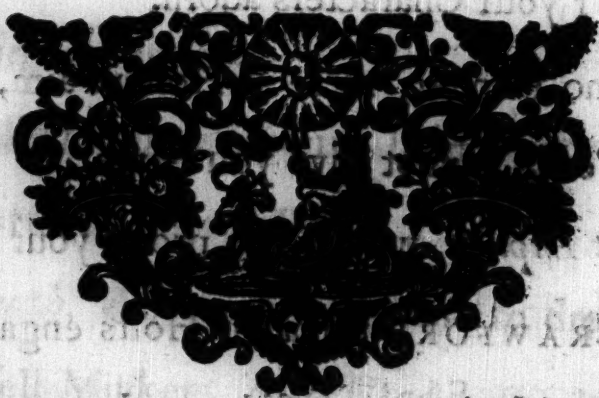
Such unavailing Heroism scorn,
As what can ne'r your Characters adorn.

Where there's no Danger, ne're at Honour aim,
Wars void of Peril, cannot give you Fame.

From gallant *Impulse*, would you prove your Rage,
Like mettl'd CRAWFORD turban'd Hosts engage;
With furious *Janissaries* compass'd round
Exchanging glorious Wounds like him be found;
And so beset, like him, disdain to yield;
Cutting your Passage thro' the crimson Field;

Then lawrell'd home return, like him confess'd
Of *British* Valour a convincing Test

Hear this, young Lords, and the Instruction take;
Be *Camps* your Joy, and *Playhouse* Fane forsake.
LINDSAY your Leader chuse, and from him learn
Their *Appellation*, how true *Heroes* earn.





And, begging Pardon, your dread Wrath appease.

SECON D

PROLOGUE

Directed to the

PLEBEIAN PLAYHOUSE RIOTERS.



Friends! Britons! Countrymen! I pray from whence

This Savage Disposition to Offence?

'Gainst what, or whom, is this inveterate Figue?

If any one is injur'd, let him speak.

The Company assembl'd here to Night

Sure cannot be offensive to your Sight,

Unless avers'd to all that's Fair and Bright.

These small tips, of discords, by the far-riding Jargon, of which, the rude labrant Sons of Ignorance, prove the
 of the most well-will'd Compositions, in the Theatre; consequently never will
 when scarce shocking to Modesty and good Sense are their respectful attentions, in
 those, which are justly, the Terror and Detestation of all Dramatick Authors of true
 Taste and Genius.

Has any Misdemeanor of the Stage,
 I pray, occasion'd this tumultuous Rage?
 If so, we can the Cause remove with Ease,
 And, begging Pardon, your dread Wrath appease.

Sure this will satisfy, then pray be still,
 And stop those * Organs, *dissonant* and *shrill*.
 But now I recollect, an Instance late

Has prov'd Submission is of little Weight;

Pardon DENYER asking, pardon mis'd,
 The more he *suppliant* bow'd, the more you *hiss'd*;
 And, on a *gracious* Prince, Attendance due,
 Would not excuse one small Neglect of you,
 As if you thought he *mean*, *humane* to be,
 And *not forgiving*, look'd like *Dignity*.

Tho' Pity thus, you, with Contempt, disown,
 Good Manners, sure, however may be shown;

While
 * Small Pipes, of discordant, horrid Sound! with great Propriety, term'd Cat-calls; by the Ear-rending Jargon of which, the rude indecent Sons of Ignorance, prevent the exhibiting of all moral well-writ Compositions, in the Theatre; consequently never us'd when Scenes shocking to Modesty and good Sense are there represented. Instruments, in short, which are, justly, the Terror and Detestation of all Dramatick Authors of true Taste and Genius.

While then this Brilliant Circle you survey,

As you are *Men*, like *Men*, due Deference pay.

Britons, I know you'll answer, are *free* born;

Therefore as *slavish*, all *Decorum* scorn.

But, by *Offence*, is *Liberty* express'd?

Must you to prove you are not *Slaves*, molest?

The Difference learn, good Countrymen, *tho* *free*,

Betwixt *Licentiousness*, and *Liberty*.

Perhaps you thus uncivilly behave

By way of Demonstration that you're brave;

But being turbulent no Manhood shows,

Where none, you think, the Insult will oppose.

Women, indeed, these Playhouse Broils may fright;

But can such *Victory* the *Brave* delight?

Better your Courage might be made appear

In warlike Armaments, by far, than here;

And ne're was Time more seas'nable, than now,

True *British* Intrepidity to show.

Go then, and never dying Honour gain;
 By Chastisement on proud, injurious Spain;
 While CRAWFORD riotous Patricians shows
 On Land, the Way, fierce Ottomans oppose:
 By gallant HADDOCK disciplin'd, do you
 Upon the Ocean, vapouring Dons subdue:
 So shall we all obtain, what we desire;
 You'll be courageous deem'd, we Peace acquire.
 This Council take, if Heroes Fame you crave:
 For Rioters are Contrasts of the Brave.

N. B. It may probably be remarked of this second Poem, that, by certain Lines, it seems calculated only for an Audience highly embellished with the Fair. To this it may be answered, That, when any Novelty (sho' but a Prologue) is to be exhibited on the Stage, the Manager always takes care to have Notice of it published; the Consequence of such Publication is, a well fill'd Theatre; and, in a Nation remarkable for a beautiful Race of Women, it would be absurd to imagine there could be a numerous Assembly, without a proportionable Number of Ladies, whose Persons are Objects of Adoration.